

(Oct 90)

VLR-12/3/97 NRHP-2/5/99

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name JOHN WHITWORTH HOUSE
other names/site number 2221 GROVE AVENUE 1127-248-0001

2. Location

street & number 2221 GROVE AVENUE -not for publication N/A
city or town RICHMOND vicinity _____
state VIRGINIA code VA county CITY OF RICHMOND code 760 zip code 23220

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this X nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property X meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant _____ nationally X statewide _____ locally. (_____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

M. Cotton
Signature of certifying official
VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF HISTORIC RESOURCES
State or Federal agency and bureau

12/22/98
Date

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria. _____ See continuation sheet for additional comments.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____

State or Federal agency and bureau _____

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

Signature of the Keeper _____

Date of Action _____

- _____ entered in the National Register
_____ See continuation sheet
_____ determined eligible for Re
National Register
_____ See continuation sheet.
_____ determined not eligible for the
National Register
_____ removed from the National Register
_____ other (explain): _____

2221 GROVE AVENUE
Name of Property

CITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
County and State

=====

5. Classification

=====

Ownership of Property Category of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

☒ private

☒ building(s)

Contributing

Noncontributing

☐ public-local

☐ district

1

0 buildings

☐ public-State

☐ site

1

0 sites

☐ public-Federal

☐ structure

0

0 structures

☐ object

0

0 objects

2

0 Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

**Number of contributing resources previously
listed in the National Register**

1

=====

6. Function or Use

=====

Historic Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

LANDSCAPE/ Garden

Current Functions (Enter categories from instructions)

DOMESTIC/ Single Dwelling

LANDSCAPE/ Garden

=====

7. Description

=====

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

MID-19TH CENTURY: Greek Revival/Italianate

LATE 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY REVIVALS: Colonial Revival/
Georgian Revival

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation BRICK

walls WOOD: Weatherboard

roof METAL: Tin

other_

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets)

SEE ATTACHED

2221 GROVE AVENUE

Name of Property

CITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA

County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- ☐ A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☒ B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ B removed from its original location.
- ☐ C a birthplace or a grave.
- ☐ D a cemetery.
- ☐ E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ F a commemorative property.
- ☐ G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

SEE ATTACHED

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

ca. 1857-1944

Significant Dates

1923; ca. 1928

ca. 1857

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

CHARLES F. GILLETTE

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Bullder

CHARLES F. GILLETTE

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS)

☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.

☒ previously listed in the National Register

☐ previously determined eligible by the National Register

☐ designated a National Historic Landmark

☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____

☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

☒ State Historic Preservation Office

☒ Other State Agency

☐ Federal agency

☐ Local government

☐ University

☐ Other

Name of repository: Library of Virginia

2221 GROVE AVENUE
Name of Property

CITY OF RICHMOND, VIRGINIA
County and State

=====

10. Geographical Data

=====

Acreage of Property **Less than one acre**

UTM References (Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet) ☐ See continuation sheet.

1	Zone	18	Easting	281980	North	4158820	3	Zone		Easting		North
2							4					

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

=====

11. Form Prepared By

=====

name/title	KERRI CULHANE	date	1 August 1997
organization		telephone	804-358-8647
street & number	6 NORTH COLONIAL AVENUE	state	VA
city or town	RICHMOND	zip code	23221

=====

Additional Documentation

=====

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional Items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items.)

=====

Property Owner

=====

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)

name	Robert Hobbs and Jean Crutchfield	telephone	804-353-2993
street & number	2221 Grove Avenue		
city or town	Richmond	state	VA
		zip code	23220

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7 Page 1

2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

7. DESCRIPTION

HOUSE

Exterior

Number 2221 Grove Avenue (VDHR 127-248-001) is a contributing resource listed in the Fan Area National Historic District (VDHR 127- 248). The Fan District is characterized by the predominance of late 19th and early 20th century town and rowhouses, generally of uniform style and setback, developed around the turn-of-the-century. Set back 20 or more feet from the busy street, framed by a high white picket fence with finials crowning the gate posts, 2221 Grove Avenue stands dramatically apart from its neighboring brick row and townhouses.

As it was built ca. 1857, the house exhibited the symmetrical façade of the waning Greek Revival in combination with cornice brackets attributable to the Italianate style that gained popularity mid-century. In the book Old Richmond Neighborhoods, Mary Wingfield Scott notes that these types of simple frame dwellings predominated mid-century in what is now known as the Fan. The house is a three-bay, two-story, double-pile, central hall passage (Georgian plan) dwelling with low-hipped, standing-seam metal roof. It is a weatherboard sheathed frame structure set on brick foundation laid in stretcher bond. There is a full basement beneath the house. The windows are 6/6 double-hung with wooden sashes and retain the original single-paned cylinder-formed glass. There are two interior end chimneys at the east end of the house, as well as another interior chimney slightly offset from the center of the house. All are laid in stretcher bond.

When the house was purchased by the landscape architect Charles F. Gillette in 1923, he soon remodeled the façade to reflect the Georgian style popular during the Colonial Revival period. The brackets were replaced with modillion blocks, and a one-story, three-bay porch was removed and replaced with an elegant Georgian door surround possibly adapted from James A. Gibbs' 1728, Book of Architecture. Wooden quoins were added at the corners. The weatherboard was painted yellow, the shutters green, and the trim white. Gillette also installed the picket fence, replacing the low hedge which had previously bracketed the front yard. The façade today remains as Gillette remodeled it, although the shutters are now black rather than Gillette's choice of bright green.

Interior

Inside, to the left and right of the wide central passage, were originally high ceilinged double parlors, each containing its own fireplace. The east parlors were opened by Gillette to form one large parlor. The two fireplaces were enclosed in the wall and the chimney redirected to a single fireplace with a large, marble Greek Revival mantle allegedly 'scavenged by Gillette from a demolished house in the Linden Row district. There is a thick astragal molding (possibly plaster, probably Gillette-era) bordering the ceiling. The baseboard in this parlor, as well as in all of downstairs, is a simple planed board, three inches in height.

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**2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia**

Description (continued)

A heavy, wide wooden chair railing that Gillette had installed in 1940, runs the perimeter of the room.

The west parlors remain separate, the front room used as a study and the rear as a dining room. The original simple wooden Greek Revival mantle remains in the study, while it appears that the mantle in the dining room may have been replaced by Gillette, as it is of a more sophisticated style out of character with the rest of the original mantles throughout the house. There are simple chair rails in both rooms on the west end of the house that may be original. In the study are built in bookshelves, alleged to have come from the Nelson House in Yorktown where Gillette was a contractor during the twenties, overseeing the extensive remodeling of the interior, the carriage house, and the garden.

In the central passage, a large turned newel sits at the base of the open stair leading to the second floor. The layout follows that of the first floor, with four rooms flanking the hall, with an added room (bathroom) at the front of the house, directly over the entry, and an additional bathroom tucked between the west rooms. In each of the upstairs chambers is a wooden, Greek Revival mantle in the style of the study mantle.

Throughout most of the second floor are the random width pine floors, like those of the first floor, and a five-inch beaded baseboard. In the front west chamber is a pegged tongue and groove floor, which is not original to the house. An unsubstantiated oral history cites its provenance as the Nelson House in Yorktown, while another implicates the architect Duncan Lee as having "extra" flooring and either donating or selling it to Gillette.

The rear porch was enclosed by Gillette to create a "garden room" overlooking his backyard masterpiece. The floor is flagstone and a five-inch beaded baseboard runs along the wall adjacent to the house. This baseboard is consistent with the baseboard found on the second floor, suggesting that Gillette may have replaced the upstairs baseboard, which was probably originally in the style of the first floor.

Gillette was also responsible for connecting the rear ell containing the kitchen to the main house. It is a single story in height with pyramidal roof, and is accessed by a hallway leading from the dining room and the enclosed porch. In the southwest corner of the lot is a brick garage, another Gillette addition, that is accessed through the public alley.

GARDEN

The house sits nearly in the center of a large (by Fan standards) yard. The front yard is delineated by a high white picket fence, while the rear is enclosed by an eight-foot brick wall, both of which were added by Gillette. The rear yard became Gillette's private garden, exemplifying the architect's gardening philosophy. The garden remains largely as Gillette planned it.

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National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

Section Number 7, 8 Page 3

2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Description (continued)

Gillette laid out the rear garden in a formal manner, with an open central lawn, its main axis perpendicular to the rear of the house. In the center of the lawn is a round pool edged with flagstone slabs and filled with water plants and goldfish. The borders of the lawn are bounded by a single line of bricks set into the dirt tracing an ogee shape at the corners. Brick paths set in a basket-weave pattern, frame the main garden, centered in the space defined by the ell, porch, east, and south walls. The irregular southwest portion of the yard is screened from the larger symmetrical garden by four-foot brick columns. Gillette's garden ornaments, benches, and decorative plaques remain, though all of the original plantings do not. A later owner planted boxwood hedges along Gillette's brick layout, which have served to both obscure and protect Gillette's original design. A large live oak on the east side of the house is likely a Gillette addition. Some of the plants, such as iris and camellia, are not Gillette's plantings, but appropriately reflect plants that Gillette used in this garden.

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Both the house and garden at 2221 Grove Avenue, Richmond, Virginia, are significant for their association with the eminent landscape architect Charles F. Gillette, FASLA. The period of Gillette's residence at 2221 Grove Avenue coincided with the most productive years in his professional career. During the 1920s and 1930s, Gillette collaborated with architect William Lawrence Bottomley, the "master of the Neo-Georgian," while earning a reputation as a master of residential site planning. Gillette designed gardens for several Bottomley houses along Monument Avenue and in Windsor Farms in Richmond, and around Virginia. Other Gillette projects included landscapes designed for historic Virginia houses, such as Kenmore in Fredericksburg (1924-1940), the Nelson House in Yorktown (1915-1925), and Virginia House (1927-1932), and Agecroft (1928) in Richmond, which confirmed and exemplified Gillette's talent and reputation. In 1933, Gillette was made a Fellow of the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) in recognition of his skills as a master of his craft. Over the course of his career, Gillette created over 1537 garden plans in New England, the Midwest, and the Mid-Atlantic regions. Of known projects, the highest concentration in any state was the 615 designs executed for Virginia clients, including residential, commercial, civic, religion- and school-affiliated patrons. Gillette's talent meaningfully transformed the Virginia landscape throughout the duration of his sixty-year-long career. The Gillette gardens at Virginia House and Agecroft remain today as two of the most distinctive and acclaimed designed landscapes in Virginia.

Stylistically, the house is not only unique for its age and anomalous character in the Fan District, but for the learned "Georgianizing" that is reflective of the Colonial Revival period in which Gillette chose to remodel it. Gillette's private garden in the rear of 2221 Grove Avenue exemplifies the architect's skill and talent at transforming landscapes, and is significant for its reflection of the architect's personal vision.

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Continuation Sheet**

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**2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia**

Historical Background and Significance

What is now the Fan District was once known as the town of Sydney (or Sidney) in Henrico County. Much of Sydney consisted of land owned by Colonel Harvie, who died in 1806 leaving the property to his son, Jaquelin. The streets of Sydney were laid out in the first quarter of the nineteenth century and the land owned by Jaquelin Harvie was divided up into numbered four-to-a-block plats. For \$650.00 in October of 1856, John Whitworth acquired plats 237 and 238, encompassing the southeast corner of Grove and Strawberry Streets and the northeast corner of Strawberry and Federal (now Floyd) Streets. It was on plat 238 that the house was built. The overlap of the Greek Revival and Italianate details, the deed and tax history, and map evidence indicate that 2221 Grove Avenue was constructed ca. 1857, possibly breaking ground the spring following the acquisition of the land by John Whitworth. Whitworth deeded the property in 1868 by release to John Frederick Fox for \$3,000.00. A release suggests that a mortgage was held by Whitworth on the house and that Fox may have been a tenant earlier than 1868.

Number 2221 Grove Avenue is one of the oldest standing structures in the Fan District today. Only a handful of mid-19th century frame house have survived the Fan's transformation from a fairly rural area into a densely developed urban neighborhood. Frame houses were relatively inexpensive and easy to construct, thus their early proliferation. They often fell victim, however, to termites, fire, and Richmond's humidity. The house passed through the hands of a number of owners before being acquired by landscape architect Charles F. Gillette in 1923.

Charles F. Gillette

Charles Freeman Gillette was born 14 March 1886 in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, the youngest of ten born to Orlando Gillette, a farmer and herbalist, and his wife Katy. Because money was tight, Charles did not attend college or university, instead trying his hand at a number of different jobs, including a stint on the staff of the Wisconsin Home for the Feeble Minded, before undertaking an apprenticeship with the landscape architecture firm of Manning Brothers in Boston, Massachusetts in 1909. Warren Manning had worked with the Olmsteds, for whom commissions included the Biltmore Estate in Asheville, NC and the World Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893. Manning was an expert plantsman, as Gillette would also become known, and the legacy he passed from the Olmsteds to Gillette would be one of realizing naturalism in the structured garden. In 1911, Gillette was sent to Richmond, Virginia to oversee the implementation of work Manning designed for Richmond College (University of Richmond).

The following year, Gillette was sent on a two-month long tour of Europe by Manning clients and friends, Elon and Blanche Hooker of Greenwich, Connecticut., Gillette was able to view first hand the famous gardens Europe, which clearly influenced the eclectic style for which Gillette was to be recognized. This grand tour of European gardens was to serve as "graduate training" for the young apprentice and the journal he kept was presented to Warren Manning upon return.

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2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

In December of 1912, Gillette married Ellen Cogswell of Greenwich, Connecticut and the couple moved to Richmond, Virginia, where Gillette was still supervising work for Manning. Gillette left Manning's employ in 1913 and opened his own landscape architecture office in Richmond. The newlyweds lived in rented quarters before breaking ground for their home 'Crestmere' on Rothesay Circle in 1916. Gillette was an acknowledged spendthrift. He and his wife enjoyed entertaining, often well above their means, and as a result the Gillettes soon overextended themselves, losing Crestmere at auction two years later. The couple spent the years between 1918 and 1923 in a rented apartment on Park Avenue (now Cathedral Place) before coming up with the \$8,260.00 to purchase a large frame house several blocks away.

At the time Gillette acquired the house at 2221 Grove Avenue on 15 August 1923, it was in a state of considerable disrepair. A photo taken by Gillette labeled "upon purchase" shows that, in addition to the worn weatherboards, the house included simple brackets at the cornice and a one-story, porch with a sloping roof appended to the facade. The front yard was framed with a low shrub hedge. Photos of the rear of the house indicate that the back porch was open, and a lattice-covered breezeway connected the main house to what was possibly the kitchen (later to be enclosed as an ell). The side yard was full of debris, and the back yard amounted to a weedy, overgrown lot -- the clearing of which Gillette undertook immediately. The first three years after purchase were devoted almost exclusively to the garden, which Gillette photographed through each stage of development.

The garden was laid out in a formal manner, with an open, central lawn, its main axis perpendicular to the rear of the house. The borders of the lawn were bounded by a single line of bricks set into the dirt tracing an ogee shape at the corners. Brick paths frame the main garden centered in the space defined by the ell, porch, east, and south walls. The wooden fence was replaced by a high brick wall that served to concentrate the lushness of the garden, and after several seasons of growth, seemingly fought to contain the abundance of plants.

The residence garden of 2221 Grove exemplified Gillette's gift for eclecticism, combining elements of the lush, textural herbaceous border of the English cottage garden, the architectural ornaments, urns, and statuary of Italian Renaissance gardens, as well as a hint of the formalism Gillette saw in the work of Le Nôtre in France and Colonial Revival gardens of Virginia.

"Every yard must be a picture," according to Gillette, who believed that when planting flowers one must plant in quantities, rather than stingily in formal beds -- notions clearly articulated in the landscape architect's private garden. Flower-filled borders provided the variety in shape and texture precisely prescribed by Gillette. Vines and shrubs surged against the walls while pots and urns and marble slab benches provided geometric relief from the sea of foliage.

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2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

Although there are no known plans for this garden, photos and correspondence provide a partial glimpse of what was planted over the course of the Gillettes' residence. Plants were ordered from greenhouses and nurseries all over the country. Gillette often used his own garden as a testing ground for plants he hoped to use in commissions. Among the plants ordered or identifiable in photographs are camellia, several varieties of tulips, iris, alyssum, delphinium, euonymus, a lilac brought back from a trip to Connecticut, live oaks, roses, and oriental poppies. The garden was constantly evolving: to the central lawn was added a round pool with water lilies, some trees were lost to an ice storm, new plants were added as old were subtracted.

The Gillettes often entertained in the garden, regarding it as an outside living room, an extension of the house, a notion very much in line with the gardening zeitgeist. They thought highly enough of it to have it illustrated for their bookplate, along with the Boston Terrier that was a favorite pet, and a border of holly, symbolic of what Gillette felt should be the official plant of Richmond.

The portion of the yard directly south of the ell was later to contain the garage, cleverly camouflaged by a profusion of flowering vines. In the late 1930s this irregular southwest portion of the yard was screened from the formal, symmetrical garden by brick columns, between which climbing roses were trained onto fence rails.

What remains of the original garden today is largely obscured by boxwood hedges, planted by a later owner. The structure of the garden, however, is entirely intact. Gillette's original bricks defining the shape of the central beds endure, as do the central pool and the brick columns to the west of the main garden. A bench also remains over which hangs an ornament common in Gillette gardens -- a plaque bearing an inscription:

There is life in stone and rain and wind
-----and sod
For who may set a limit to the breath of God.

With all of the energy being put into the garden, the house appears to have languished for a number of years. When Gillette finally undertook the actual house renovation, it was approached with the same penchant for eclecticism apparent in his landscapes.

The documentation of the clearing, layout, planting, and progress of the garden provides a few clues to the time frame for the piecemeal renovation of the exterior of the house. In the first two years, no change is evident. In the third year the porch is enclosed and a Chippendale rail is added to its roof, while the brackets still remain at the cornice. A 1925 Sanborn Map of Richmond indicates that the front porch was still intact at that time and the kitchen ell was still disconnected from the main house. There is a lapse in Gillette's

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2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

personal papers until the early 1930s, and the earliest dated photo showing the completed renovations wasn't published until 1937 in *Landscape Architecture*. Plans for a proposed facade treatment were drafted in September, 1927, by local architect Courtney S. Welton, but they are not the plans used by Gillette. Welton envisioned a quasi-Mediterranean theme for the exterior, with stucco, wrought iron filigree, and a peaked, copper-roofed porch. Given the information available, the complete exterior renovation, including the removal of the porch its replacement with a Georgian style surround; the replacement of the brackets with modillion blocks; and the picket fence, gate, and finials, took place between 1928 and the early 1930s.

Aside from the time frame, there remains the issue of who designed this vernacular interpretation of the Georgian Revival. There is the temptation to suggest that William Bottomley, a frequent collaborator with Gillette at this time and the so called master of the neo-Georgian popular during this period, had a hand in it. After all, the Gibbs pattern book from which the surround appears to have been adapted was a book known to Bottomley, an architect who made a name for himself in Richmond building elegant Georgian style residences.

A compelling case might be made that Gillette himself was responsible for the redesign of the exterior. As a landscape architect, Gillette had very distinct ideas about the integration of a house with its environment. In a lecture delivered to the Norfolk Garden Club, Gillette stated that when deciding on a house and site:

‘...the house must be designed to fit the existing conditions so as not to appear when finished as if it has not been considered with any point in mind other than a house in which to exist. In planning your house, always fancy in mind the grounds you should have around it, and then consider whether or not you have the conditions for such a home.’

Gillette had been the contractor for the extensive renovations at the Nelson House in Yorktown between 1915 and 1925, often making major decisions for the absentee owner, Admiral George P. Blow. In the 1940s, Gillette directed the renovation of the façade and interior of his office at 105 East Cary Street, from what was referred to in the Richmond Times Dispatch article of 1948, as “Dingy Victorian” to “Elegant Georgian,” specifying and ordering the millwork from a local Richmond lumber company.

Gillette was a man of vision and capability; it seems unlikely that he would have purchased a run-down old house without seeing some potential in it to suit his specifications. Although he designed the landscape first, it is probable that Gillette had in mind plans for the house, but in his limited financial state, was unable to carry-out expensive renovations after putting a large down payment on the house. It is also logical that as a designer of landscapes, Gillette was putting his talents into the garden first, as a showcase of his work and a

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2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Statement of Significance (continued)

place to entertain. Clinton Webb, long-time Gillette friend and executor of Gillette's estate, has affirmed that Gillette was indeed responsible for the design of the exterior renovations at 2221 Grove Avenue.

In all likelihood, Gillette did not draft the plans for the renovation. In fact, Gillette apparently never drew the plans for any of his gardens, instead leaving that task to his capable draftsman, Edward C. Jones. Gillette's garden plans sometimes included extremely detailed renderings of architectural details, sheds, bridges, and dovecotes, conceived of by Gillette, but drafted by Jones. It is indisputable that Gillette had the capacity and vision to realize full-scale architectural work.

Gillette made very few alterations to the interior of the house, and the interior work that was performed took place in the areas most likely to be seen by visitors and clients. Downstairs, the east parlors were joined to make one massive room. A thickly profiled chair rail was installed around 1940, as well as a monumental marble chimneypiece, of which the date of installation is yet unknown. The dining room received a new Georgian style mantle while throughout the rest of the house, the original, simple, Greek revival mantles remain. The kitchen was joined to the house by the addition of a short hall and small room, probably around the time that the back porch was enclosed to create a room that seems to be more garden than house oriented. It is a space from which to reflect upon the garden.

The Gillettes remained in the house for twenty-one years, spanning the establishment of Gillette's reputation as a master of residential site planning in the 1920s, his Fellowship in the American Society of Landscape Architects in 1933, to the slump in business during World War II which in part forced the landscape architect to sell the house and garden at 2221 Grove Avenue in October of 1944.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Fan National Historic District National Register Nomination. The Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission, 1984.

Gillette, Charles F. "Look Here Upon This Picture and On This." *Landscape Architecture* 28 (1937/38):161.

_____. Personal Papers. Library of Virginia, Richmond, Virginia.

Longest, George C. Genius in the Garden. Richmond: Library of Virginia, 1992.

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2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Bibliography (continued)

Robertson, Dorothy. "Dingy Victorian Dwelling Downtown Gains Elegant Georgian Facade, Colorful New Interior," *Richmond Times-Dispatch*, 25 January 1948:C-9.

Sanborn Fire Insurance Co. *Map of Richmond City*, 1925. In the collection of the Library of Virginia.

Scott, Mary Wingfield. Old Richmond Neighborhoods. New York: Bonanza Books, 1941.

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

Tax parcel #W000-0998/003

VERBAL BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

Nominated property represents the entire parcel historically associated with 2221 Grove Avenue during the period of Charles F. Gillette's residence, encompassing both house and garden.

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PHOTOGRAPHS

Section Number _____ Page 10

2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

PHOTOGRAPHS

All photos of 2221 Grove Avenue taken by Chris Dunham. Negatives in possession of author.

1. Exterior 3/4 view, looking south. 3/96
2. Exterior, looking south/southwest. 3/96
3. Detail of front door surround adapted from James Gibbs Book of Architecture, 1728, plate 103.
3/96
4. Garden and rear of house, looking northeast. 3/96
5. Garden looking west/southwest. 3/96
6. Garden. Central pool and brick columns installed by Gillette, looking west/northwest. 5/96
7. Interior. First floor central passage and open stair, looking west/southwest. 5/96
8. Interior. First floor. Library, north side of house. Original Greek Revival mantle, looking southwest. 5/96
9. Interior. Dining room, first floor, west side of house. Mantle installed by Charles Gillette, looking north. 5/96
10. Interior. Parlor, first floor, east side of house. Major alterations by Charles Gillette include enlargement of room, addition of chair rail, moldings, and chimneypiece. Looking east/northeast. 5/96

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Continuation Sheet

2221 Grove Avenue
Richmond, Virginia

Section Additional Documentation Page 11

A. 2221 Grove Avenue Historic Images

Before and after images of Gillette's house from *Genius in the Garden*, by George C. Longest (Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, 1992).

B. Charles F. Gillette Client Log

The client log of Gillette's general work has been copied from *Genius in the Garden*, by George C. Longest (Virginia State Library and Archives, Richmond, 1992).

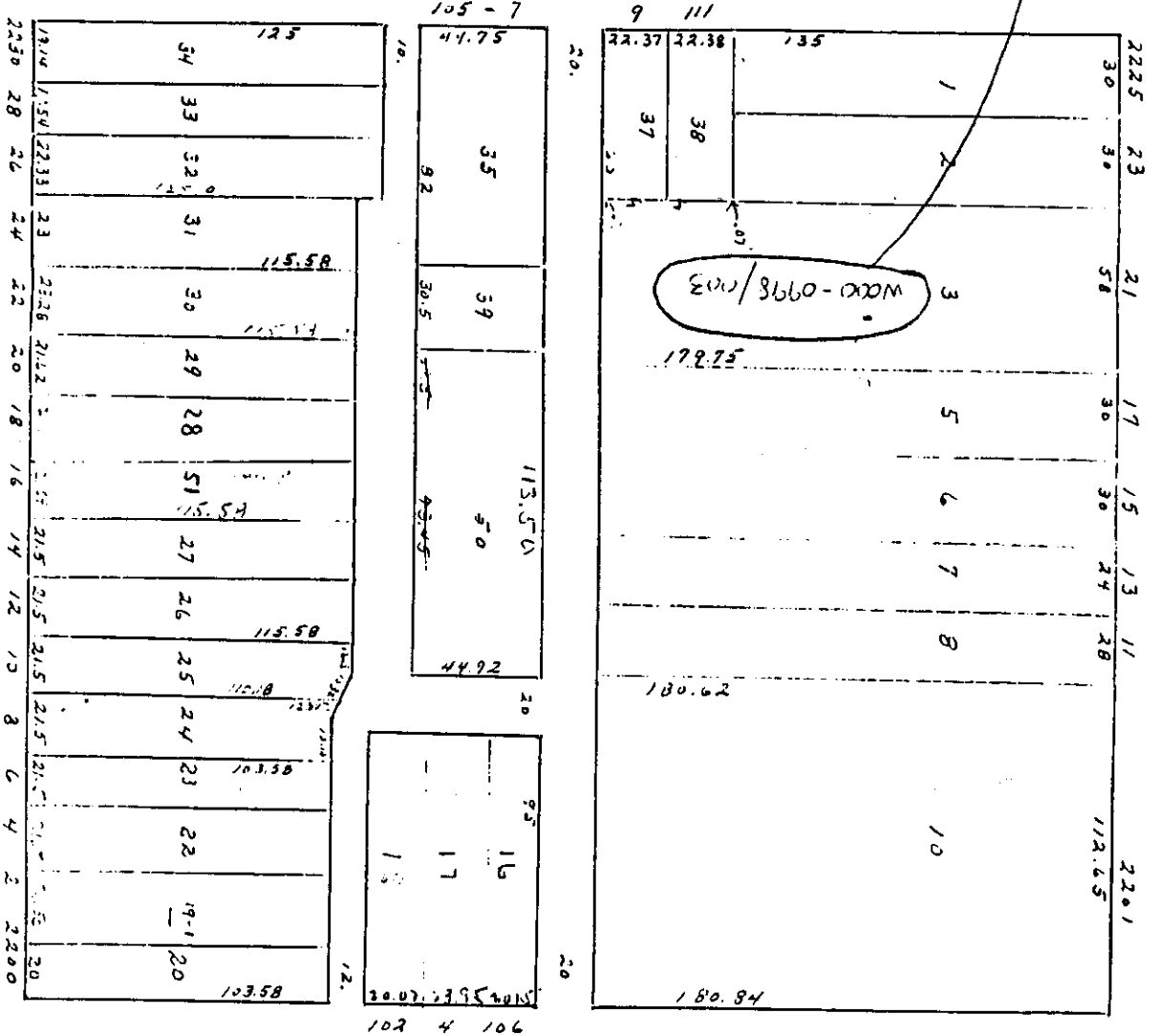


The garden of 2221 Grove Avenue illustrated on the Gillettes' bookplate. The Boston Terrier was a favorite pet and a border of holly represents what Gillette felt should be the official plant of Richmond. (From the *Gillette Papers, Library of Virginia*)

WHITWORTH HOUSE

(N. ADDISON ST.)
STRAWBERRY ST.

78-R24-27
2/27/78



N. SHIELDS AVE.

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